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REPORT ON THE SITUATION IN
PARAPSYCHOLOGY IN EASTERN EUROPE

Milan Ryzl
Summer 1967

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Introduction

This report will contain mainly informations on the parapsychological research in Czechoslovakia and in the U.S.S.R., in which countries I had the possibility to observe it in first-hand experience.

The most significant conclusion of this report /which I prefer to point out right from the beginning/ is the realization of a rather paradoxical situation in parapsychology of to-day. Many popular publications about parapsychology /articles in newspapers and popular-scientific magazines etc./ have been published in communist countries in recent years. Owing to this fact the lay public and especially the students /as far as they care about it at all/ consider parapsychology a serious field of scientific research. The opinion of scientific public is not uniform. There are critics /who are already mostly silent/, there exist advocates who very often for ideological reasons hesitate to proclaim openly their interests /they are silent, too/ - but the tolerant opinion seems to prevail that parapsychology is a serious scientific effort. This, nevertheless, did not bring about a general conviction of the usefulness of investing financial means in parapsychological research. In fact, the means devoted to research in communist countries are limited in extent, and care is taken to invest preferentially in those branches which - at least according to the opinion of persons who direct the investments - promise to bring either an immediate economical profit or, an increase of the international prestige of the communist science. Therefore, the leading scientific institutions seem to tolerate parapsychological research, but are hesitant actively to support it. Such a situation - in specific conditions existing in communist countries - makes it immensely difficult to start any research of significance.

All means devoted to science in communist countries come, directly or indirectly, from the state treasury, and are distributed through leading scientific institutions. There exist no private institutions. Therefore, persons interested in parapsychology must work from their own initiative, in their free time left after full-time occupation, and also the research expenses are paid by

SECRET

then from their own means /which calls for considerable sacrifices since the standard of living is rather low - in the U.S.S.R. considerably lower than in Czechoslovakia, and again, in Czechoslovakia lower than, e.g., in Austria/.

This is one side of the coin: a field which is rich & profitable, or at least not suffering from lack of interest. But there is more frightening, and perhaps more important, side to this picture: Not a long time ago, and rather suddenly, state authorities in communist countries, notably military authorities and especially secret services, became greatly interested in parapsychology. This interest probably has not brought about great military investments in parapsychology up to now /though secret state means have already been occasionally invested in parapsychological research/, but the interest especially of the secret services is very striking. It is characterized by the effort to obtain as quickly as possible, and as detailed as possible, informations about the parapsychological research in the West as well as in China. The great fear is evident lest the findings of parapsychology could be used against the U.S.S.R. either direct in the military combat, or as a tool of a cold war.

I am unable to judge in how much these fears can lead to the effort to overcome the West in the parapsychological research just at the present time and to increase the state investments in parapsychology. One conclusion, however, seems to be pretty certain: The position of parapsychology in communist countries and especially in the U.S.S.R. is sufficiently strong, and there can be no doubt that this field will develop further. Russian scientists are well aware of the perspectives of practical application of parapsychology. At the same time, the characteristic feature which characterizes the science in communist countries are the efforts, exerted by the state, to apply the results of scientific research in the practice whenever it is possible, to look for new fields where scientific research can contribute to praxis - and to carry out these applications always with one ultimate goal: to strengthen the positions of the world communist movement. Soviet state authority has enough means /and apparently enough able individuals ready to step considerably to accelerate the progress of parapsychological research - when it is found desirable and conducive to the rule over the world. In such a case, it has also enough means to keep the results obtained in secret. And when practically applicable results are once obtained, there is no doubt that will actually be applied in practice - without any hesitation and at the place and time when

fully chosen us as to promote research in psi. Some research projects started in East-European countries have to indicate that soviet scientists have started in parapsychology and have already attained first promising results.

Personally, I am of the opinion that the serious control over psi involves the participation of the state and of the population in which - as I believe - higher regularities of human psi are sought themselves, regularities which by themselves will make any misuse of psi impossible. This conviction, however, can be only a pious desire and cannot be relied upon. I agree that we parapsychologists should still hold in mind that the most important historical mission of parapsychology of to-morrow is in accumulating theoretical knowledge about the man and the universe, in finding the proper goal of human life and helping man to its fulfilment - in other words: in finding a synthesis of science and religion which could fully satisfy the modern man. Nevertheless, on the background of facts mentioned above, the possibility of practical use or even misuse of psi creates a singular situation which should not be overlooked.

In my opinion - though it may seem a little absurd in our field which is still little developed - there seems to be already now only one way left for Western science: to accelerate the development of parapsychology so that the present start before the Russian parapsychology is maintained and even increased, and while doing it to promote not only theoretical aspects, but the practical application as well. I am afraid that we are already in the situation from which there is no way back, and which repeats in the field of parapsychology the situation in atomic research at the time of World War II: It is necessary to ensure lest the totalitarian state misuses, in its ambition to gain rule over the world, new scientific findings apt to afford far reaching advantages.

Situation in Czechoslovakia

In the way of introduction, I shall sum up the development of parapsychology in Czechoslovakia in recent years. Stimulated by my popular publications /printed in Czechoslovak press since 1958/ and lectures, and especially later in consequence of the publications by professor I.L.Vasiliev in the U.S.S.R., a few groups of persons interested in parapsychology have been formed, the most promising of them having been the group of researchers at the University in Brno led by Dr.C.Vesely. The group has gradually gained respect of university authorities, and succeeded at

last in getting parapsychological research introduced into the research plans of their departments /in Dept. of physics and physiology at the university's Medical School/. Unfortunately, their work became a center of a journalistic campaign later on, which gave it an unwelcome and distorted publicity /in connection of some disputable experiments in psychokinesis/. Agitated by these adverse criticisms, university authorities began then to oppose this group and its work came to a stop.

In addition to this group there has existed a number of persons seriously interested in parapsychology /physicians, university students etc./ in different cities whose activity, as far as I know, has not proceeded over the stage of accumulating informations yet, and therefore, they are not mentioned in this report. What should be mentioned is only the fact that representatives of several important scientific institutions /such as, e.g., Institute for aeronautical medicine, Military political academy, or, Philosophical institute of the Czechoslovak academy of sciences/ have publicly proclaimed the importance of parapsychological research recently.

Otherwise, only the activity of about five persons deserves to be pointed out separately.

Mr. Milan Nekonečný

Assistant professor at the Dept. of psychology, College for journalists, University of Prague. At one time he took a very active part in the discussions about parapsychology /in lectures and popular articles/. Later on, when he came to the opinion that sociology is a field where he can make his career more easily, he devoted himself fully to sociology.

Doc. Dr. Julius Kratochvíl

Retired professor of physics at a Teachers' College. He published a scientific paper describing his observations relevant to the psychokinesis research /voluntary influence upon the movement of light objects floating upon the surfaces of fluids/.

Mr. Milo Čadež

A new personality in Czechoslovak parapsychology. A young and diligent student at the University of Bratislava. He was successful in getting permission to work on a diploma thesis with a parapsychological theme. According to recent developments it was expected that I would be appointed his official tutor. My departure from Czechoslovakia, however, interfered with this program.

Ing. Zdeněk Rejšek and Ing. Karel Drbal

Ing. K. Drbal is a man of about 60, working in an electro-technical

nication establishment, whose whole-life hobby has been to collect informations on parapsychology, but who was unable to make use of these informations himself. Dr. Z. Rajdik is a young set. person /about 35/ who has been drawing informations from Ing. Drbal, Dr. K. Kuchynka /Czech parapsychologist of the old generation, little active at present/, and from himself. He has made few scientific observations with a few individuals, but he has published many articles which he combines with informations from the press, popular articles about parapsychology which he signs either by his name only, or with the statement of the co-author K. Drbal. He publishes mainly in army magazines /he is an employee of Czechoslovak army/. He is more a popularizer than a scientific worker. In his conceit he made one doubtful contribution to parapsychology: he called "psychotronics" and has thus created some confusion.

Only a few years ago, a vivid discussion on parapsychology took place in Czechoslovakia. An opponents became well known Dr. I. Horvath /psychiatrist/, Dr. J. Sural and Dr. T. Weiss /neurophysiologists/. I was much active publicly at this time in popularizing parapsychology /popular articles and lectures/. In the hope to get financial support for parapsychology from Czechoslovak authorities, I have more than once pointed publicly to possibilities of practical application of parapsychology, and I have mentioned also possibilities of military applications. /By the way, L. L. Vasiliev in the U.S.S.R. took advantage of a similar tactics when he gave vast popularity to the invented Nautilus story./

Later on, when the discussions about parapsychology came to a standstill /the critics discontinued their attacks/, I have devoted myself fully to research activity and to educational activity on higher levels /lectures in scientific institutions etc./. I have also had a few lectures for students of psychology at Prague university /not paid yet/. These lectures were gradually developing into a program that every student of psychology should attend at least one lecture on parapsychology.

It was Z. Rajdik who took on all popularizing activity at this time. Being a member of the army he has always tended to emphasize military applications of parapsychology. I have fostered this tendency in the hope that the army could be instrumental in establishing a parapsychological laboratory.

I shall give below some most interesting facts which are relevant in this respect and which received a wide popularity in Czechoslovakia and in the U.S.S.R. - such a popularity that was able to

influence the attitude of attendant persons. /Maybe that some of these facts are little known in the West./

Russian stage-telepathist, Wolf Messing whose ability is reported to have been tested personally by Stalin himself, seems to have been able to perform remarkable feats: He claimed to have been able, by means of telepathic suggestion, to enter unnoticed into a strictly guarded area, or to bring persons to actions that were contrary to their duties /e.g., the guard in the train acknowledged the strip of paper as a valid ticket or, the cashier in the bank paid a large sum of money upon the presentation merely of a blank sheet of paper/.

It was reported that also other Russian stage performers, such as K.N. Nikolaev /subject of K.E. Naumov/, M. Kuri etc., have been similarly able to manifest ESP abilities, mentally to influence other people and induce them to obey telepathically given orders.

A well-known Polish clairvoyant, Ing. S. Jasowiecki has been reported, among other things, to have helped in World War II at the exhumation and identification of persons in mass graves.

V.L. Durov planned already in the 20-ies a military application of telepathy: telepathically to direct swimming porpoises to enemy's ships and thus to use them as torpedoes.

In 1919, during a local war between Czechoslovakia and Ugar, it happened that one unit of Czechoslovak army commanded by Karel Hejbalík had a remarkable success during the whole campaign. Later on, it was reported that all success of this unit was due to the fact that the reconnaissance of the terrain was entrusted to a few hypnotized soldiers; these soldiers then ascertained clairvoyantly /and very reliably/ positions, ordnances, and tactical plans of the enemy.

It has been reported that in the Rommel's German army in Africa sowzers were used to ensure water supply for units fighting in the desert.

The pioneer of Russian parapsychology, B.B. Kasimsky planned, before he died, the research aimed at the application of telepathy in what he called "re-education of anti-social elements". He anticipated that it would be possible to influence suggestively men at a distance without their knowledge, and thus to induce them to have a required social and political attitude, and possibly also to perform required actions.

One book for a lay experimenter B. Kafka was published by the author himself in Czechoslovakia in several editions between 1941

to 1948, and attracted considerable attention. The author /a skilled stone-mason who died in 1967/ described in it in a layman's style his very interesting experiments with hypnotized subjects. He paid his subjects and hypnotized them regularly, and the subjects remained in the hypnotic state sometimes 10 to 12 hours each day. Karika reported that after several years of such treatment some of his subjects received phenomenal psi abilities /ESP as well as PK/. He reported his best subject /Mr. Křeček who died already many years ago/ to have been able, while in the hypnotic state, even to kill various animals at a distance, by mere concentration of his thoughts.

Also some reports from the Western press have been widely popularized. This was, for instance, the report according to which Lord Dowding was able, in the World War II, with the help of a spiritualistic medium to obtain informations about the targets in England selected by Germans to be attacked in air-raids; or, the cases of Edgar Cayce, Mrs. J. Dixon, Mrs. Buchel of Remagen /West Germany/, Mrs. Greet Hofmans from Holland, and of course, the case of Gerard Croiset /especially the experiments allegedly performed on behalf of the police/. All these reports have been presented as if it were always strictly scientifically verified facts; as if it were not exaggerated journalistic presentations - but rather revealed top secret reports. Again and again, particular attention was devoted to reports describing military and police applications of ESP.

All these publications made the question of military application of parapsychology very topical, but in spite of it, they have not brought the expected financial donations. They have, however, contributed to stimulate the secret service to become interested in parapsychology. So for instance, shortly after my return from India /in July, 1966/ I was invited by the Czechoslovak secret service to supply informations for it about parapsychological research in abroad. I could cope with this depressing situation by elusive manoeuvres for a short time, but since November, 1966, this service was exacted from me under such a severe pressure that even my personal fate became very uncertain. In addition to this, I was secretly trailed at various times in last few years, and secret service agents were sent to me under different pretexts to draw informations from me. Also my contacts with Russian parapsychologists were obstructed in the recent time with the aim to make it impossible for me to gather informations in the U.S.S.R. and to pass them over to the West. The pressure exerted upon me by the Czechoslovak secret service was the last stimulus which contributed

to my final decision to leave the country.

U.S.S.R.

The situation in parapsychological research in the U.S.S.R. is far more important now than that in Czechoslovakia. I shall introduce it with a historical note summarizing what has been already known:

The development of parapsychology in the U.S.S.R. after the World War II was parallel with the partial weakening of the political oppression in the country in late fifties. It started with bold publications of professor L.L.Vasiliev /at first a few popular articles in magazines by which Vasiliev probed the situation/ which were followed by a book by B.B.Kazhinsky "Biological Radiocommunication". Three books by L.L.Vasiliev were published soon afterwards. All these publications made Russian public acquainted with older researches by B.B.Kazhinsky /with V.L.Durov and his dogs/, L.L.Vasiliev /telepathic hypnosis/, and with some other less significant ~~researches~~ explorations, e.g. that by S.Ya.Turlygin /whose pupil is D.I.Kirza/ or, by L.A.Vodolazsky /with whom recently worked K.E.Kaumov/, etc.

This was the stimulus to a further development which proceeded along these lines:

- 1/ Organizing activity: The establishment of a research group at the University of Leningrad /Vasiliev/, and then constituting an active group in Moscow /thanks to the initiative of Kaumov/.
- 2/ Popularization activity /to a great degree thanks to Kaumov and his cooperators/.
- 3/ Philosophical and theoretical apology of parapsychology. Efforts to justify parapsychological research while using arguments from the sphere of thinking of dialectical materialism /E.T.Faddeev, V.P. Tugarinov, I.M.Kogan/.
- 4/ Research activity characterized by a great number of enthusiastic individuals who have collected themselves in several promising groups. Some individuals have an excellent knowledge of western parapsychological literature, but on average, the experimental methods do not reach the perfectness of methods used in the West. A certain indecision can be observed typical for a period of looking for new methods /especially when the tendency is felt to work out own specific research approaches/. Especially explorations of the "skin-optic sense" /finger-reading/ prevailed in recent years - in many cities, especially in Novosibirsk /A.S.Novomysky/ and Moscow /D.I.Kirza, M.S. Smirnov, S.G.Gellersteyn/ - and efforts to achieve a long-distance

-9-

telepathic communication by the help of specially selected pairs of subjects.

This activity proceeded under simultaneous sharp attacks by critics /mainly . . Biryukov, . . Shakhnevich, A.I. Kitaygorodsky, and L. Toplov/.

Attitude of Russian Parapsychologists towards Soviet State System

In view of recent developments, I consider this question pretty important, unfortunately, I am unable to answer it with certainty. This is for several reasons:

1/ First, the strict internal régime and severe discipline to which every soviet citizen is subject, has learned Russian people to hide any possibly existing feelings of dissatisfaction and to pretend loyalty.

2/ It has become well known in the U.S.S.R. that I have been supported for years from USA. Therefore, some Russian scientists accepted me rather as a delegate of USA, and it seemed to me that they were not as confident and frank as they had been before.

In my opinion, the following observation is typical, and for me very significant: One ^{Russian} scientist with whom we have established very friendly relations during my past visits to the U.S.S.R., and whom I consider to be most open of all people I met in the U.S.S.R., expressed himself during our previous meetings very sharply against the soviet régime. This time, after he already gained a certain position and popularity in the U.S.S.R., and when he expects that he will have the possibility of a further prosperous work under soviet régime, he did not say a single word against the communist régime - to the contrary, he even behaved in such a way that I myself did not dare to make allusion to his political attitude. In discussions with other Russian scientists I could feel the wish /difficult to say whether sincerely meant, or dictated by political necessity/ to establish a kind of union of parapsychologists from communist countries, in which parapsychologists from the U.S.S.R. and East-European countries would cooperate. For instance, during my discussions in Leningrad, Russian scientists suggested the possibility of organizing a conference of parapsychologists from communist countries. In all plans, however, the tendency is visible to draw informations from the West, and keep developments in communist countries secret.

Taking into account these isolated observations, and especially relying on my own estimation of internal situation in the U.S.S.R.,

I am of the opinion that it will be more correct to anticipate that Russian parapsychologists are either from conviction loyal to the communist régime or, that they will at least behave loyally regardless their actual conviction. I will add a few reflections to support this conclusion.

/1/ All scientists younger than 50 have been born already in the communist era. They have been influenced by the communist propaganda for the whole life, deliberately indoctrinated, while informations coming to them from abroad have been filtered. And since the Russian frontiers are closed they lack the comparison with other countries and the possibility to form really independent opinions.

/2/ In spite of the fact that soviet citizens live in pretty poor conditions, they nevertheless have a marked national pride. It seems that they do not hesitate to go on living poorly /and their government takes readily advantage of it! / when they realize that the standard of living has yet increased during the soviet régime /they can learn only very little of parallel developments in other countries! / and that their country has become a world-power.

/3/ This patriotic feeling is strengthened by the realization of the menace for the whole nation coming from China /and, in some peoples opinion, also from USA/. I have felt fears lest parapsychology is misused against their country. For instance, I was reprehended that I have published the description of a method for training ESP in the American press. /When I argued, in this connection, with a moral imperative which might prevent any misuse, one objection has been raised which, of course, can be applied in various situations: that it is possible, when suitable means of propaganda are used, to mould man's consciousness so that he may even misuse his abilities at last, and yet remain convinced that he was serving an honest purpose./

/4/ Soviet régime has vast possibilities of influencing individuals by threat and pressure and thus to force them to obedience. The influence of different means combines here. So for instance:

/a/ Soviet régime monopolizes the propaganda /press, broadcast, etc./, and it admits the expression only of those opinions that are in harmony with its plans.

/b/ Soviet régime monopolizes also all economical aspects of individual's life. The state /more precisely: the institutions entirely controlled by the government/ is the sole employer in all types of activity. Any citizen who through his work, political attitude or personal life, falls into disfavour of persons who re-

-11-

present the state power, has no chance of honorable position /he is not accepted to the position he wishes to hold, he is obliged to do inferior work, with more duties and less salary, etc./ in the atmosphere of mutual control and hidden fight of everybody against everybody always enough individuals can be found who will try and please the representatives of state power by denunciation and by more ostensible display of loyalty, and replace him in his position. An open manifestation of disagreement with the government is always punished by long-lasting imprisonment. But also an insufficient manifestation of agreement is punished - by loss of position and of the possibility to earn decent living.

/c/ Even the dissatisfied individual, when surrounded by uniform and purposeful propaganda and deprived of the possibility effectively to manifest his opinion, ~~soon~~ resigns in his position soon. He feels too isolated since the life in the state is organized to the effect that it is considered a citizen's duty to display his agreement with the régime at every occasion, and the citizens watch one another's life at work as well as in privacy if it complies with the adopted standards.

/d/ The communist state power has, in comparison with the democratic states, far wider possibilities to motivate the individual. As a matter of fact, every citizen is far more limited in his rights, and the state power has to its disposal a number of motivating stimuli that fulfill those wishes which, in the free world, have been recognized self-evident long ago, so that people in the free world do not even feel their necessity. So for instance, in addition to the always efficient financial reward, there are other stimuli such as permission to make a trip abroad, preferential supply of scarce goods, or perhaps an amendment of a person's secret "personal record".

Organization of Parapsychological Research in the U.S.S.R.

In order to understand the situation in Russian parapsychology properly, we must point out, first, general necessary conditions that must be fulfilled in the U.S.S.R. before any field of research can prosper.

/1/ The first condition is that the usefulness of such an endeavour for the communist society is recognized. Otherwise the persons engaged in research would be persecuted by state authorities. This condition has been fulfilled in the U.S.S.R.

/2/ The second condition is the sufficient financing of research. All investments in research in the U.S.S.R. come from state

-12-

means, and the question is how to convince the responsible persons of the usefulness of investments into parapsychology. These persons who manage research money are either mere officials who tend to promote practical trends in research, or scientists working in acknowledged branches of science; since the means to be invested in research are limited, it is conceivable that these scientists will promote mainly their own fields or, still more likely, their own topics of research. In addition to that, it is in the core of the situation - on the background of the rigid state-discipline they are subjected to - that these persons will necessarily always hesitate to support new ideas /unless they receive the order to do so/, since this makes them more vulnerable by criticisms and thus undermines indirectly their own position. In the atmosphere where everybody watches for another's mistakes, is ~~always~~ every private initiative dangerous.

Thus, from the point of view of financing the research, Russian parapsychologists work on three levels:

/a/ A few individuals /say, about ten or twenty/ work on problems of parapsychology that are normally included into the research program of some research institution. Their research is not called "parapsychology" /so as to designate it as a new separate branch of science/, but they work on problems that belong to the sphere of parapsychology on the same level as problems of other branches are being solved: The scientists are paid for their work, and they work in specialized laboratories whose equipment - though modest - is nevertheless sufficient /the equipment of laboratories has been considerably improved in recent years/. For instance, the members of the Leningrad group work in these conditions, and evidently also scientists engaged in secret research.

/b/ Some other scientists working in laboratories of their institutes are not paid explicitly for their work in parapsychology, but nevertheless, they work with support and in laboratories of their institutes - but rather from private initiative, and in addition to their prime research tasks. This situation prevails in the research of finger-reading.

/c/ Very many individuals work from their own initiative and in rather difficult conditions: They devote themselves to parapsychology in their free time left after their full-time work in other fields /sometimes considerably different ones/, and they pay necessary research expenses from their own income. Of course, this brings about considerable difficulties for them, since they have no other incomes than those from their employments - and such an income is

-13-

usually enough to ensure only a very modest living. /On the other hand, Russian people are modest, and can easily become enthusiastic about some idea - even if it does not bring financial profit./ Such is the situation, e.g., group of Naumov, and we must point out as Naumov's great merit that he knew how to stimulate the interest and activity of a numerous group of persons /some of them being mere amateurs/ and how he tries to exploit everybody's abilities for the development of parapsychology.

A special commentary should be made on the question of the "secret research" in the U.S.S.R. Everybody who meets Russian scientists is surprised by their lack of communicativeness when they speak about their work. There are several reasons for it:

/a/ One self-evident reason could be the natural reluctance of a scientist to speak about the results of his work before final conclusions are carefully drawn.

/b/ But the reticence of Russian scientists has deeper roots. It is imposed upon them as a basic duty, as a sign of loyalty to the soviet state. The scientist is paid by the state, and it is considered self-evident that the results of his work do not belong to him but to the state /as represented by a few leading personalities/. He is not allowed to dispose with them /e.g., to communicate or publish them/ without permission. There is a tendency of soviet scientists /imposed by state authorities as a duty/ while contacting foreign scientists to draw as many useful informations as possible, but to tell as little as possible in return. In this way, not only positive research achievements are kept in secret, but also difficulties and failures. The reasons of this secrecy are not in science, and not in the people, but in the political background: The scientist is rather a mere instrument for gaining knowledge - which knowledge then stands to the disposal of the state power, and measures are taken so as to prevent lest anybody else makes use of it.

The state power then uses the scientific knowledge in the usual way, in practice, but in addition to that also as a tool of political propaganda. Successful results of scientist's work /when it is found advantageous to publish them/ are presented as if obtained thanks to the soviet régime, while the difficulties he has to surmount are kept in secret. The whole atmosphere in which the scientist works resembles more a military campaign than a quiet peaceful work: The extorted strict discipline, the necessity repeatedly to display showy tokens of loyalty towards the state,

steady control of mistrustful superiors in this discipline and loyalty is not pretended; at the same time the duty to keep the results ~~from~~ of one's work secret from the "enemy", and to do one's best to apply them immediately in practice with the purpose to strengthen communist power.

/c/ The above situation concerned scientists in "civilian" research institutions /universities, institutes of Academies of sciences, etc./. These scientists, subjected to nearly military discipline work on tasks imposed upon them by their superiors; and these tasks, in dependence upon the institution who has ordered them, has sometimes a civilian, sometimes a military character. Besides this there exist in the U.S.S.R. also secret research institutions in the proper sense of the word /where tasks concerning the security and defense of the state are being solved/ where the requirements on secrecy are still stricter: Those who work in such institutions must not speak about their work at all, they do not travel to abroad, and the institutions are sometimes denominated only with a code number.

Characterization of Main Persons and Centers in Soviet Parapsychology

Parapsychology has spread considerably in the U.S.S.R. in the recent years. Many new individuals became interested, and new centers appeared. I was unable to meet all interested people, and therefore, this report will necessarily be incomplete as concerns the specification of persons and centers. Yet I think it will be pretty accurate as concerns the work completed, since only a few groups show visible signs of their activity /others are either too isolated or, they are just starting their work and have no visible results yet, or, they are only laymen without great perspectives of prosperous work/. It was understandably very difficult to assess the extent of the secret work. I trust, nevertheless, that I have not made a great mistake even here, since I had a relatively good possibility to judge from hints or silences of people I met, from confrontations of independent communications of different persons, and from the general level of published research.

The general level of parapsychological research in the U.S.S.R., as far as I could judge, is methodically more primitive than the similar work in the West. The work of soviet parapsychologists does not reach the fineness of methodical correction achieved in the leading western ~~scientific~~ centers. But they are well informed about the western parapsychology and, in addition, I have encountered a few

methodical innovations which represent a diametrically new experimental approach, new way of attacking the problem of putting ESP under laboratory control /which is the main aim of soviet parapsychology/. These new methods may prove promising and may initiate a significant progress surprisingly soon.

Leningrad

It seems, in contradiction to what was reported previously, that the official and legal establishment of an independent parapsychological laboratory in Leningrad has not been completed during Vasiliev's lifetime. ~~His death was a great loss to the scientific community~~ As a matter of fact, already during my former visits to Leningrad, I have wondered why I have never found an inscription on the door indicating the existence of the parapsychological laboratory. But this is a mere formality indicating to the most that parapsychology has not been acknowledged an independent branch of science. The fact is that Vasiliev received an official permission of his superiors to start the parapsychological research /in the frame of physiology of higher nervous activity/ and that he organized a group of research workers to work on problems of parapsychology. This success has been achieved at a price of a great personal sacrifice, and the fight for parapsychology has brought for Vasiliev many disputes and difficulties, and has embittered the last years of his life.

During World War II, Vasiliev was entrusted with various research tasks of military significance, and evidently enjoyed a full confidence of soviet authorities. According to some informers, he has received a larger sum of money at some time before his death /but not before 1962/ to equip his laboratory. At this time he was probably entrusted with definite research tasks in the field of parapsychology /some of which could have been secret already at that time/. It seems likely that he had not time to fulfill these tasks to the satisfaction of his superiors.

Vasiliev's death itself is rather mysterious. He suffered from a long-lasting heart disease, he underwent a liver operation, but this was not the cause of his death. He recovered from the liver operation, was sent home, but later on he returned to the hospital again for a cold and suspected pneumonia. He was recovering again, was already to be dismissed, when he died probably from an acute heart attack. He received a sudden message /nobody told me which one/ which made him very angry, and in consequence of a heart stroke he died within one hour.

-16-

Vasiliev's work before his death /at least that which has been reported/ concerned research of finger-reading with N.Kulagina. This subject was paid from ~~Vasiliev's~~ Vasiliev's research means for some time, and the routine experimenting was made mainly by Vasiliev's assistants V.A.Doroshenko and A.I.Pudovkin. It seems that this research has not brought much satisfaction for Vasiliev, since Kulagina was an adventurer. She was tried for frauds, and it was only the admission to psychiatric treatment which has saved her from prison. Vasiliev has protected her, and he was convinced that Kulagina really had the finger-reading ability. Unfortunately, Kulagina deceived too often, and she was remarkably inventive in finding still new and new ways of cheating.

During my first visit to Leningrad I was not allowed into the laboratory. This time, I had a free access everywhere, and could freely inspect its equipment. The laboratory is situated in an old building, its equipment is very modest, without the least of luxury /lack of space, old-fashioned furniture/, but there is a number of apparatus there /though again, not the most modern ones/. The present director, professor P.I.Gulyaev, has assured me that he was satisfied with the equipment as well as with financial means which have been given to the disposal of his research.

After Vasiliev's death, Gulyaev is director of two laboratories now:/a/ The original Vasiliev's laboratory, called "Laboratory of basic nervous processes", and /b/ his own laboratory, called "Laboratory of biological cybernetics". They are placed beside each other on one corridor.

In the Laboratory of Basic Nervous Processes there work two groups of people: Members of one group work on physiological problems and are not interested in parapsychology, while the others work on parapsychological problems /I was, however, not able to find out the theme of their work/. In the Laboratory of Biological Cybernetics the work goes on on problems which have only borderline relation to parapsychology. They are studying electromagnetic radiation emitted by living organisms or, more precisely, faint electrostatic fields surrounding living organisms. According to what P.I.Gulyaev has told me, they are fully aware of the fact that the electromagnetical theory is unable to explain telepathy, but they are studying this problem with the hope, first, that an explanation could thus be found for at least some cases of apparent telepathy, and second /and in my opinion mainly/, with the hope technically to design new forms of information transfer between human body and physical apparatus.

-17-

Essentially, the work of Gulyaev's group is based on the discovery that all living bodies are surrounded by a faint electrostatic field /they call it "electrical aura"/ which they were able to detect and measure by a sensitive high-resistance detecting apparatus. This field undergoes changes in the course of time. So for instance, muscular contractions /even as small as ideomotorical movements accompanying a mere imagination of a movement/ give rise to changes in it which could be detected. These changes in the "electrical aura" represent signals which carry a certain information. They can be, first, a basis of some processes of information transfer as they occur in the nature /probably, from evolutionary point of view, of a rather atavistic nature - communication between some fish, insects, etc./, and second, they can have also a technical significance. There exists, for instance, the theoretical possibility that the changes in the aura, initiated by man's mental activity /for instance those accompanying the thought of some movement/ could be exploited to exert a distance control over some apparatus. On the other hand, also a possibility has been considered to register the "electrical aura" of the body or of some organs for diagnostic purposes.

On the whole, about 10 persons are engaged with problems of or close to parapsychology in both laboratories mentioned above. At the opportunity of my visit there in June, 1967, I was shown an experiment in which a sensitive electrode detected electrical impulses in the excited nerve from the distance of a few centimetres, or the changes in the electrical field in the proximity of flying insects. The visit to the laboratory and the discussion with its staff, however, gave me more questions than answers. Let me point out a few striking facts:

In spite of the evident vivid interest of all staff members in my visit, it was nearly exclusively only the director, P.I. Gulyaev, who put questions to me. This indicates the conclusion that the questions were prepared in advance, and that the ordinary staff members had little freedom in contacting the visiting foreigner; this conclusion is further supported by the fact that in spite of a cordial welcome I had no opportunity to meet individual staff members separately, but instead, the whole discussion was "official" in the presence of the whole group. When the staff members spoke about their work, they have mentioned only the registration of electric fields, as if this were the only thing they were working on. But in fact, from the whole staff apparently only two members are working on the registration of electric fields /V.I. Subotin

-18-

and N. Shlippenbakh, while informations which I received from other persons I have interviewed say that also work on other problems is going on in Leningrad. It is possible that the group is continuing the secret research on tasks which had been imposed upon Vasiliev.

A certain insight into the character of activity of the Leningrad group can be drawn from questions they have asked. Understandably, many questions originated in their general desire to make their informations about western parapsychology more up-to-date: the questions concerned main centers of research, addresses, responses to Hansel's critique, organization and financing of parapsychological research in the West, sources of financial means. On the background of these general questions some items were conspicuous by their inner significance:

First, it was the desire to learn as much as possible about the parapsychological research in China and in USA. As concerns China, the lack of informations is well understandable, since the Chino-Russian conflict is severely felt in the U.S.S.R. The research in China was barred from the outside, there are no precise informations, and yet rumours transpired that parapsychological research was rapidly developing in China /perhaps at the Peking University, but possibly elsewhere/ at Mao's personal command. As concerns USA, there is the greatest desire to learn how the parapsychological research is being financed - especially which projects and to what degree are or have been financed by military institutions. I have also observed that they are very curious to learn whether and to what degree parapsychological research is incorporated into the American space-flight program. In this connection there was a sorted interest in the work and theories of A. Puharich. From the methodical point of view, there was the greatest interest in experiments where physiological methods were used to detect ESP /e.g., experiments with the plethysmographic method, REM-technique, etc./

What was very striking, however, was a complete lack of questions about hypnosis - in spite of the fact that hypnosis was a central point of discussions during my previous visits. This is strange, since at least two independent informers /one in Leningrad and one in Moscow/ have told me that research in hypnosis was going on in the former Vasiliev's laboratory in Leningrad. This makes me to suspect that Gulyaev's group had reasons not to display openly their interest in hypnosis before me.

-19-

State Scientific and Research Institute for Mineral Raw Materials /subordinated to the Ministry of Geology/.

Research in dowsing is going on in this institute. For instance, a well known Russian dowser N.N. Sockolov works for this institute already for at least one year. Nothing has been published about this research, and therefore, I was unable to learn more about it.

Research in Finger-Reading

This research is going on not only in Moscow, but also elsewhere. Much work in this direction was done by A.S. Nevomysnyy at the Pedagogical Institute in Novosibirsk. This author has trained finger-reading ability in his students with allegedly 20 percent of success. In Moscow, it was mainly M.S. Smirnov, . . . Bongard /both working in the Laboratory of Sight/, S.G. Gellersteyn /professor of psychology at the Moscow University/, and D.I. Mirza /psychiatrist who was the first to bring R. Kuleshova to Moscow/ who were engaged in finger-reading research. The subject for this research was R. Kuleshova who visited Moscow several times.

M.S. Smirnov, whom I consider a very able, reliable and methodically punctuous scientist /46, meticulous, with deep interest in Indian philosophy/, has assured me that in experiments he had witnessed in 1962 and in the first half of 1963 R. Kuleshova actually had her ability and did manifest it in conditions which made it impossible for her to cheat. Among other things, successful experiments were done with her in which ESP cards were ascertained in a game-like situation /R. Kuleshova was paid a reward of 20 kopeek for each hit, and had to pay a fine of 5 kopeek for each miss/.

Otherwise, the history of R. Kuleshova is rather depressing. She has been a psychiatric patient /epilepsy/ from the beginning of the investigation; later on, she wished to turn her abilities into financial profit /she required that a rent is given her for demonstrations of her ability/. She became a prima-donna, started to dictate experimental conditions, and when her ability began to disappear, she did not hesitate to take recourse to fraud. It happened that in experiments performed before a sceptical committee she was found cheating. Her ability disappeared already during the second half of 1963. This could have been due to the psychical strain from experiments with sceptics and from public criticisms. Smirnov was then able, while exerting much tact and effort, to restore her ability for a short time. But soon afterwards her ability disappeared

-20-

again, and now she is unable to manifest it /except perhaps only a few rare occasions when brief flashes of doubtful ability appeared again/. R.Kuleshova, however, asserts that her ability is still as good as ever, cheats and excels in performances for her fellow-patients. Meanwhile, her disease has deteriorated and, according to Smirnov, it is impossible to experiment with her any more.

On the whole, it seems that the climax of enthusiasm for finger-reading research is already far over.

Secret Research

I was able to find convincing indications testifying that secret research in parapsychology is going on in the U.S.S.R., but I am unable to assess its extent quite reliably.

Besides the indications of secret research going on in Leningrad, I came across testimonies that as early as in 1960 the psychiatrist D.I.Mirza was engaged in secret parapsychological research. I met him personally at the occasion of my first visit to Moscow in 1961. At that time, he made a very conspicuous impression by his taciturnity and extreme reluctance to speak about his work. He did not even tell me the name of the institute where he was working. When directly asked he answered evasively by saying that he had gone over to another institute recently. Later on, he did not answer my letters. At that time, I found an explanation for such a behavior in the supposition that he was in no way enthusiastic to work in parapsychology or, that he was, in consequence of distrust or some political purge, removed to such an inferior job he is ashamed to avow. This time, however, I have learned that already at that time he was working on parapsychological problems in some secret research institution. I am not sure if he still works there. According to one information, Mirza has not fulfilled the tasks he had been given, and he came over from that secret institution to a civilian one. Most probably he is working in a public hospital now.

Another indication of a secret parapsychological research can be found in reports about Russian space research. Shortly after V.Tereshkova and F.V.Bykovsky have completed their space flights some pages from their diary have been published with records of - as it was announced - their "psychological experiments". On those pages there were, among other things, drawings strikingly reminding of ESP symbols. Therefore, these records can be interpreted /though,

-21-

without assurance/ no records of ESP experiments. Now, during my recent visit to Moscow, K.E. Naumov informed me that he had received an invitation to help in the function of a scientific advisor in ESP experiments with cosmonauts. He intimated that he knew that ESP experiments had been performed in the Russian cosmonautic center already for a long time; but that they /according to Naumov/ "had no able advisor" to lead the research.

I am sure that in Russian parapsychological research ESP cards are extensively used. I have seen a pack of perfect ESP cards manufactured by a soviet printing house. With the state printing monopoly in the U.S.S.R., and with the strict control over every printing, this can only signify that some official institution wished to have ESP cards in numerous copies.

Scientific-Technical Society for Radiotechnics and Electro-communication

While in Leningrad it was predominantly physiologists who became interested in parapsychology, in Moscow there was established a very active parapsychological research center in which technicians working on technical means of distance communication cooperate. They are organized in a voluntary association called "Scientific-technical society for radiotechnics and electrocommunication /named to the honour of A.S. Popov/" in the sub-unit called "Section for bioinformation". This group was officially established in 1965. It is a voluntary organization which, in soviet conditions, assures the legality of parapsychological research and its social esteem. This is necessary in soviet conditions, and it facilitates the publication activity, contacts and co-operation with other institutions, acquisition of support from scientific establishments, etc. But, as a matter of fact, this organization is rather merely a prestige provision which does not afford finances for research. The activity of the group is financed from private means of the members of the group.

This group was organized thanks to the efforts of K.E. Naumov who was active in it for some time as "director of research". He claimed this boastful title of "director of research department", but in fact, the Society had no laboratory of its own. Experiments performed under the auspices of the Society were performed in laboratories of cooperating institutions. Naumov has left this group recently, and now there work in it /to name at least some most important members/ prof. I.M. Kogan /^{president} director of the Bioinformation unit in Moscow/, Dr. M.S. Smirnov, prof. S.G. Gellersteyn etc.

-22-

The Scientific-technical society A.S.Pepov's is a whole-state organization. Hence, following the example of the Bioinformation unit in Moscow, other similar units have been founded in other cities, such as Leningrad /to be distinguished from the Leningrad university center!/, Novosibirsk, Odessa, Zaporozhye and Taganrog. Also in these groups persons interested in parapsychology are associated; but these groups have been little active till now.

Bioinformation unit in Moscow has exerted a very busy activity, much of which was realized thanks to Naumov. An international meeting of parapsychologists was organized in August, 1966 following the International psychological Congress in Moscow. Also a vast and useful popularization activity was realized: public lectures and discussions, popular articles in various newspapers and magazines. Very important was the organization of regular meetings and seminar discussions of scientists which were thematically devoted either to surveys of main areas of parapsychology or, to various experimental and theoretical problems of parapsychology or, to some earlier problems of parapsychology. The activity of the group thus formed a good organizational and broad thematical background for further development. The organizers were very inventive in choosing varied themes for these meetings which have been sometimes very interesting. I shall quote some of the discussed questions and ideas:

- a/ The possibility to use parapsychology as a military weapon.
- b/ The role of parapsychology in the formation of the Man of the Future.
- c/ Prospects of developments in technics and science due to parapsychology.
- d/ Prof.Ya.P.Terlecky /director of the Dept. for theoretical physics of P.Lumumba's university, Moscow/ has considered the possibility to explain EDP by the supposition of new, hitherto not detected elementary particles with negative energy /whose existence can be theoretically admitted/. His theory is thus based on a mere extension of known physical principles. Even if this theory is unable to show the way to an exhaustive explanation of psi, it can nevertheless be an illustration of one newly arising tendency in Soviet parapsychology: An endeavour to find an explanation of telepathy in terms of new physical laws activates efforts to look for new laws of physics, particularly for new elementary particles, which could have their technical applications, e.g., in the information transmission. The parapsychological endeavours in the U.S.S.R. can thus already be found to stimulate again back the development of physics.

Thus /should this stimulus be followed/ the possibility is opening of finding purely technical /i.e., non-parapsychological/ ways of information transfer that, nevertheless, would be revolutionary and based on entirely new principles; ways of information transfer that could model telepathy with the aid of purely technical contrivances /and represent even a revolutionary contribution to the practice of communication/.

e/ F.Yu.Zigel /astronomer/, Yu.I.Dolgin /engineer/ and V.K.Dogozov have considered the possibility that parapsychological communication channels could afford means for communication with intelligent beings that can be imagined to live on other planets. It was already

the Russian pioneer of rocket flights, K.E.Ciolkovsky, who anticipated the existence of "higher" beings elsewhere in the Universe who could communicate with and influence the human civilization on the Earth at a distance while taking advantage of parapsychological means of interaction.

f/ Prof.V.P.Tugarinov /director of the Dept. of philosophy, Leningrad university, who has published an article at the end of 1964 in which he defended parapsychology from the philosophical point of view/ has expressed the idea that at the present time when knowledge in all branches of science is being accumulated with really increasing velocity we cannot manage with the verbal communication as it is common in our culture. It is necessary to find a radically new way of communicating - both for the needs of scientists so that they may cope with the flood of newly acquired information, and for the needs of students as well. Such a new way of communicating might be based on psi abilities, and therefore, parapsychological research is necessary and socially valuable. According to Tugarinov, especially telepathy is suitable for such a purpose, provided that three conditions are fulfilled: 1/ The ability must be possessed by all people; 2/ It must be prone to developments and perfectioning; 3/ It must be brought under control with such a reliability of functioning as, e.g., telephone.

According to the summary by I.M.Kogan /newspaper "Komsomolskaya Pravda", October 9, 1966/ the activity of the information unit consists in:

- 1/ Study and systematization of world parapsychological literature.
- 2/ Observation and study of cases of spontaneous telepathy.
- 3/ Experiments with artificially provoked telepathic phenomena.
- 4/ Efforts to achieve the establishment of a parapsychological laboratory.

-24-

The unit's experimental work proceeded mainly in these directions:

- /A/ The exploration of what they call "mental suggestion" /i.e. of telepathic influence upon the behaviour of a person/ with subjects in the hypnotic state /physician-hypnotizer V.L. Raykov/ mainly under these experimental arrangements:
 - a/ Awakening from the hypnotic state on a telepathic command /registered by means of EEG/;
 - b/ Transmission of a telepathic command to fall down /observed by television/.

These experiments have been performed only at a distance of not more than a few metres /at most to the neighbouring room/ It was observed that the interception of the telepathic impulse was always a few seconds /usually 2 to 5/ belated after its sending.

We may note in this connection that, already since the times of Vasiliev, soviet parapsychologists give a great emphasis on the exploration of how to exert a telepathic influence upon the behaviour of man at a distance: Actively to transmit impulses to control the behaviour - as distinct from the mere transmission of signals carrying a certain sensory information. Russian scientists consider this particular process so important that they have introduced a new term for it, "mental suggestion", as distinguished from "telepathy" which is understood only as reading of thoughts of other people.

- /B/ Exploration of mental suggestion and telepathic transfer of images with the help of specially selected subjects /of which, up to now, K.N. Nikolaev has been the best one/.

- /C/ Experiments with long-distance telepathic transmission.

It appears that the group has made some successful /though not very extensive/ experiments with the telepathic /under GMI conditions/ transmission of images at a short distance: The agent was sitting behind the back of the percipient and tacitly observed an object lying in front of him on the table, while the percipient was describing freely his impressions. Then the agreement of percipient's statements with the reality was judged, and even some efforts towards quantitatization were made /when a limited number of target objects was used/.

A few short experimental series have also been completed /again only short-distance ones/ in which the subject /K.N. Nikolaev/ had the task, following a telepathic order, to lift one out of ten prepared envelopes. In these experiments which are briefly described

-15-

in a paper by I.M.Kogan: Telepathy, hypotheses and calculations /journal "Radiotekhnika", No. 2, 1957/ the best signal-to-noise ratio of the order of $p < 10^{-5}$ has been achieved.

In contrast to the above, sensationally-lacking long-distance telepathic experiments /as reported mainly by E.K.Naumov/ were as a rule not so successful as to deserve the publicity they have obtained /it was the case of too short experimental series, with little convincing results obtained under little rigid conditions/. These long-distance experiments performed at a time when Naumov was still with the group will be described later on /under the heading "E.K.Naumov"/. Now after the split with Naumov the members of the group perform their own experiments which have not been published yet, and about which I know very little. They made, e.g., a corroborative experiment with K.N.Nikolaev /the subject of Naumov's long-distance telepathic experiment Moscow-Novosibirsk/, but without any positive result.

The president of the group, I.M.Kogan, is rather theoretically-minded. From other members of the group it is, e.g., M.S. Smirnov who has an experimental disposition. Besides his experiments with Kuleshova he reported me also about his other experiments /performed - as I suspect - in cooperation with D.I.Mirza, and possibly with a group of further, probably younger, co-operators/. He reported to have had performed experiments with hypnosis and with psilocybine. Both have reportedly been successful, and he plans to continue them.

As concerns these experiments with psilocybine I consider these details methodically important: Dose 12 to 15 mg. The subject receives a box in his hands in which the target object is enclosed. As a basis of the approach to the subject a supposition is deliberately adopted ~~that~~ that the subject, when in a state of intoxication, is unable consciously to concentrate upon the imposed ESP task. Hence, the situation is induced which helps the ESP impressions to impress themselves onto the train of visions /which, by ^{their} inner nature, depends from the psychical structure of the subject/ and to influence it at least in adding some symbolical elements to it. The instruction given to the subject says approximately this: "I know that you possibly are unable voluntarily to observe the content of this box; but your only task will be freely to observe your visions and to report on them; while fulfilling this task you must only have in your mind that the content of this box will be, in some way or other, reflected in the contents of your visions."

-26-

When an another box /with a new target object/ is being put in subject's hands, the instruction says: "The previous box can cease to exist. Since it does not exist any more, your visions will be invaded and influenced by impressions coming from inside of this box."

Eduard Konstantinovich Naumov /born 1932/

He is a most dynamic person in Russian parapsychology. He can be compared, to a certain degree, to Z. Rejda, but he has far more enthusiasm and vitality. It is difficult to judge his work as a whole since it has different aspects. Some traits of his activity help considerably to the development of parapsychology in the U.S.S.R., and deserve to be acknowledged, while others are harmful and deserve condemnation. Persons whom I met, and whose opinion I share, appreciate Naumov's informative and organizational activity. He is a very able and efficient organizer, and doubtless he has great merits in the establishment and the activity of the Moscow Bionformation unit. Further on, he did much to popularize parapsychology in the U.S.S.R. He organized and read many informative lectures, and encouraged many journalists to write informative articles about parapsychology. In addition, the fact must be respected that for many years he carried out his activity quite selflessly, in addition to his whole-day job /till November, 1966, in State Research Institute for Medical Instruments in Moscow/, and at a price of considerable financial sacrifice and difficulties at his work. He is very inventive as regards what to do to promote parapsychology, and his ideas are usually valuable.

On the other hand, Naumov is generally condemned for his dilletantism in experimenting, especially for his carelessness as concerns experimental controls, and for his irresponsibility in reporting. His experiments are organized more for a journalistic effect than for their scientific contribution, and their results are exaggerated so as to make a more striking impression.

His personal traits: He is extremely enthusiastic about parapsychology. He makes no scruples in exploiting all imaginable means to promote parapsychological research in the U.S.S.R. - though some of the means he uses are undoubtedly objectionable. He ~~guarantees~~ is obstinate in pursuing his way, accepts no advice, and endures no criticism. He wishes to fight a priority position for himself in Russian parapsychology. /For instance, he showed a marked displeasure when he realized that I wished to meet also other Russian

-27-

scientists; he evidently wished that I have only the information - and such ones as he wished them to sound. / He had the tendency to arrogate the work of others to himself. For instance, when he works with co-operators, it happens that he publishes the results at his own discretion, without the knowledge and consent of co-operators. /For instance, in the last experiment he has performed in co-operation with L.P.Pavlova and G.A.Sergeev, the distribution of tasks was approximately as follows: The experiment was performed by Pavlova, Sergeev made the mathematical evaluation, while Naumov's task was the organization of the experiment and bringing the subject from Moscow to Leningrad. But Naumov, when reporting about the experiment, has put it as if it were his own experiment; he presented the results prematurely and exaggerated, which irritated his colleagues./

As concerns Naumov's showy long-distance telepathic experiments, let us say, first, generally that the results were by far not so perfect as it was reported. /Naumov has never published detailed records and numerical data from these experiments; and those results which I learned from reports of other people I met, most definitely gave not the least substantiation to such a bombastic reporting as he did./

These experiments were performed by Naumov and his colleagues under the auspices of the Bioinformation unit in the Moscow branch of A.S.Popov's Society. But when he reported about them irresponsibly in the press and did not want to accept criticisms, there arose a conflict between him and other members of the unit. For instance, M.S.Smirnov, a diligent and conscientious scientist, whose approach to parapsychology is undoubtedly positive, informed me that, after long hesitations, he has decided publicly to criticize methods of popularization of experiments as they are used by Naumov /Smirnov's article is about to be published in autumn or winter 1967 in the journal "Nauka i Zhizn"/.

Naumov's reaction to this conflict was that he left the group and organized his own new group. With the support of professor N.A.Valyus he found a new job since November 1966. He entered the Department of physics at the State engineering college in Moscow /Vsesoyuznyi zaochnyi mashinostroitelnyi institut/. According to Naumov, this is his first position where he is paid for his work in parapsychology. With the help of professor Valyus Naumov succeeded, since June 1967, in establishing a "Laboratory for Technical Parapsychology" /affiliated to this Dept. of physics/. He is the

-28-

director and a sole ~~main~~ paid staff member of this laboratory. But he disposes with a group of about 7 to 10 not paid volunteer cooperators who help him in their free time. The work in this laboratory has some peculiar features which create a rather strange impression:

/1/ Naumov acts formally as a director of the "Laboratory for technical parapsychology", and makes on its behalf vaguely formulated contracts in legal form concerning cooperation with other institutions, such as for instance, Scientific and research institute for raw materials of the Ministry of geology or, with the Scientific research institute for introscopy. Such a formalism, however, is common in soviet science. /It can serve as a token of activity camouflaging that little was actually done, and at the same time, it assures the legalization of performed activity in the prevailing atmosphere of general mistrust./ But in actual fact, it means only little more than a ^{useless} ~~formal~~ Administrative work - many words but little work.

The above mentioned "Scientific research institute for introscopy" is abundantly supplied with financial means, since it works on military tasks. Its director is P.K.Oshchepkov, designer of Russian radar defence system. At the present time, he is mainly engaged in the problem how to find technical means that would make it possible to see inside of opaque objects /which is necessary, e.g., for industrial defectoscopy/. The design adopted in the institute is purely technical one, and is based on the same principle as roentgen defectoscopy. The material is illuminated by a penetrating light of a suitable wave-length /e.g., with infra-red rays/, and the shadow of the object is observed on a screen that makes the rays visible. This program has evidently nothing to do with parapsychology, but one could argue that clairvoyance could fit into the scope of this institute.

/2/ Naumov's laboratory /one room about 3.5 x 4.5 meters in the basement/ is equipped virtually only with a few chairs, a table and a book-shelf, but yet the first thing he did was to fix a showy plate on the door: "Department for technical parapsychology".

The work in the laboratory performed up to now was more the formal office work than research. On the walls there abound charts and graphs showing, e.g.: The survey of cities and countries with which Naumov corresponds. Survey by countries of numbers of letters received and sent. Graph showing numbers of articles for and against parapsychology published in different years. Graph showing how many times the subject of ~~parapsychology~~ telepathy was used in science fiction in different years.

It seems that Naumov's main contacts, discussions and negotiations, his ideas to hold his own seminars, etc., have no valuable experimental results of his own. The latter produces experimental results rather secondarily, when his public activity stimulates the interest of other people who advise their own experimental program.

Naumov's attention is fixed now to advertizing the perspectives of practical application of parapsychology, especially:

- 1/ Observing the behaviour of men from a distance.
- 2/ Control over the behaviour of men exerted from a distance.
- 3/ Psychokinetic control over the behaviour of inanimate objects.
- 4/ A rather phantastic plan to design a technical appliance for mass suggestion and hypnosis at a distance.

What I take for valuable is a project to compile a volume summarizing in abstract form everything that has been published about parapsychology in the U.S.S.R. The plan is nearing completion. /Naumov has made several persons enthusiastic about this idea/, but the publication of the volume is not secured yet.

Naumov is planning several showy experiments, such as long-distance telepathic experiments deep under earth surface, deep under water, from one flying airplane to the other, etc. /Two of Naumov's close cooperators, G.A.Sergeev and G.I.Rilsky, are members of the army./ In my opinion, Naumov plans to use these showy experiments, about which he wishes again pompously to report, so as to attract the attention of the public and of soviet functionaries to parapsychology /if this is still necessary in the U.S.S.R./, and of course, to his person, too. It seems to me that he is looking for /or, possibly, thanks to his activity is attracted to/ the cooperation with military or police circles. /He denies any close cooperation ~~with military or police circles~~ to exist right at the present time; he must have also realized that such a cooperation would obstruct his appreciated contacts with abroad./ Naumov has told me, for instance, that the initiative concerning the above mentioned invitation /see chapter "Secret research"/ that he may methodically help with telepathic experiments in the orbit, came not from himself, but from functionaries of Russian space-research program.

Another Naumov's intimation is important on the background of my experience from Czechoslovakia where the Czechoslovak secret service became interested in my work and in the extent of my knowledge of the parapsychological research in the U.S.S.R. and elsewhere. Naumov had - strikingly enough: at the same time! - a similar exper-

-29-

It seems that Naumov enjoys outer contacts, in particular negotiations; he likes to discuss his ideas and projects. He has no valuable experimental results of his own. His activity produces experimental results rather secondarily, when his public activity stimulates the interest of other people who devise their own experimental program.

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- 4/ A rather phantastic plan to design a technical appliance for mass suggestion and hypnosis at a distance.

What I take for valuable is a project to compile a volume summarizing in abstract form everything that has been published about parapsychology in the U.S.S.R. The plan is nearing completion. /Naumov has made several persons enthusiastic about this idea/, but the publication of the volume is not secured yet.

Naumov is planning several showy experiments, such as long-distance telepathic experiments deep under earth surface, deep under water, from one flying airplane to the other, etc. /Two of Naumov's close cooperators, G.A. Sergeev and G.I. Ritsky, are members of the army./ In my opinion, Naumov plans to use these showy experiments, about which he wishes again pompously to report, so as to attract the attention of the public and of soviet functionaries to parapsychology /if this is still necessary in the U.S.S.R./, and of course, to his person, too. It seems to me that he is looking for /or, possibly, thanks to his activity is attracted to/ the cooperation with military or police circles. /He denies any close cooperation ~~with military or police circles~~ to exist right at the present time; he must have also realized that such a cooperation would obstruct his appreciated contacts with abroad./ Naumov has told me, for instance, that the initiative concerning the above mentioned invitation /see chapter "Secret research"/ that he may methodically help with telepathic experiments in the orbit, came not from himself, but from functionaries of Russian space-research program.

Another Naumov's intimation is important on the background of my experience from Czechoslovakia where the Czechoslovak secret service became interested in my work and in the extent of my knowledge of the parapsychological research in the U.S.S.R. and elsewhere. Naumov had - strikingly enough: at the same time! - a similar experi-

ience. At some time at the end of 1965 /in November or December/ members of soviet secret service /admitted comparatively spontaneously/ have interviewed him for the first time, and then again several times. According to Naumov, the initiative in this contact came again from the secret service. Naumov has told me that he planned loosely to cooperate with them, since he hoped that this might help him in his further work.

Main Experiments organized by Naumov in the Recent Time

Long-distance telepathic experiment Moscow-Novosibirsk

What was reported about this experiment was approximately this /newspaper "Komsomolskaya Pravda", July 7, 1966/: Between April 19 to 27, 1966 a successful long-distance telepathic experiment was performed. In this experiment ESP symbols and visual images were sent from Moscow. The agents were Yu.I. Kumensky and A.S. Zolashin. The transmitted signals were reportedly successfully received in Novosibirsk /percipient K.N. Nikolaev/ at a distance of about 2800 kilometres.

Of course, this brief description does not give the true picture of the actual course of the experiment in the evaluation of which there were several weak points: On the whole, the experiment consisted in a transmission of 2 series of 25 ESP card symbols and of 12 pictures of objects in GESP conditions /the agent was looking at the object which the percipient had to describe/. Each of the agents sent one set of 25 ESP symbols and 6 objects. The percipient, K.N. Nikolaev, dictated his impressions, and these responses were compared with the transmitted images. This was done in the following way: Percipient's statements were divided in separate items and each item was judged separately as to which one out of 6 objects in the respective series it fits. The object to which the majority of individual items was thus judged, was then confronted with the object that was actually transmitted.

The transmission of images of objects was thus virtually an experiment of a qualitative type /though one primitive effort towards quantization was exerted/ and it cannot be taken for conclusive since really fitting responses were scarce. Apparently best result was the statement /selected from numerous other impressions to the same object/: "Something lengthy ... probably made of plastic ... black." The transmitted object was a black screw-driver with a handle made of plastic.

The overall results were these: In the series where Nikolaev

-31-

was the agent only one out of six transmitted objects was correctly identified /which means that the majority of percipient's individual statements fitted to the ^{respective} transmitted object/. In the series where Kamensky was the agent five objects out of six were allegedly identified. When, however, other members of the Bioinformation unit wished to check the correctness of the evaluation, one suspicious thing happened: the original tape-record of Nikolaev's statements was mysteriously lost.

In experiments with the transmission of ESP symbols these results were obtained:

In a series of 25 symbols sent by Arlashin only 3 hits have been recorded.

In a series of 25 symbols sent by Kamensky there were 12 hits. Unfortunately, the record from the experiment was written ambiguously, with cancellations and corrections /in some trials there were as much as 3 different responses to one target/. When other members of the Bioinformation unit corrected the overall result with regard to these shortcomings in the record, the number of hits dropped to 7.

In contrast to this, in public reports about this experiment, the failure of series with Arlashin is never mentioned, and only the second series with Kamensky is being reported and the result of 12 hits is being claimed.

We could add that in an another long-distance telepathic experiment /Moscow-Leningrad/ which was not published yet, and in which also the transmission of visual images was the objective, a parallel allegedly successful experiment was performed in which the third person /with a good ESP capacity/ tapped the transmitted message without both agent's and percipient's knowledge.

Telepathic experiments with EEG recording

I take these experiments for methodically very promising and inventive. I have discussed them with M.S.Smirnov and with the author, L.P.Pavlova. /I was unable to meet the second author, G.A. Sergeev, since he was on duty outside of Leningrad./

L.P.Pavlova /about 35, electrophysiologist specialized in electroencephalography, working in the Laboratory for the Physiology of Labour, Leningrad University/ has been interested in telepathy since her admission to the university /in 1948/ where she became Vasiliev's pupil. Telepathy is not the center of her interests /her main interest is in the electroencephalography/; she is interested in telepathy rather secondarily, since she finds in it a good example

-32-

of applying her theory of several basic types of functional states of brain hemispheres. She cooperates with G.A.Sergeev who helps her mathematically to evaluate EEG records. The description of the theoretical basis of her experiments will be published in two books: G.A.Sergeev, L.P.Pavlova, A.F.Romanenko: Statisticheskii analiz EEG cheloveka /Statistical analysis of human EEG/, publishing house "Nauka", 1967.

M.I.Vinogradov /Editor/: Rukovodstvo po fiziologii truda /Physiology of Labour - Manual/, 1967. /Chapter: EEG criteria of assessment of the functional state of human brain/.

In principle, we have to do with these discoveries: G.A.Sergeev has developed a mathematical method for evaluating the electroencephalographic record. L.P.Pavlova found, when applying this method, several basic types of function of brain hemispheres. These types of function differ in different excitation /increased activity/ of different regions of the cortex, which again is manifested on the EEG by different probability distributions of different activities as recorded from different points of the brain /the difference is always in probability patterns of activity/. So for instance, frontal parts of the brain are more excited at times of intensive mental activity, while when awaiting sensory impressions it is the respective projective areas of the cortex which are excited. During the normal brain activity the types of function alternate.

Physiological importance of this research is in the study of attention. Pavlova found, for instance, in one experiment in which the subject was to fulfill a simple performance task that errors appeared especially in moments when the types of function changed /in moments of a temporary decrease of activity of the respective part of the cortex/.

For parapsychology, an observation by Pavlova can be very important that there exists a specific state of activity of the brain which is favourable for perceiving /interception/ of telepathic stimuli, and which can be identified by means of EEG. According to Pavlova, this type of function does not occur in the normally active brain, but it can be achieved after some training.

A second important finding was that it was allegedly possible to detect on the EEG-record the impact of the incoming telepathic stimulus /a strong emotion which was telepathically suggested, previous to the subject realizing and consciously reporting it. This electroencephalographic detection was reportedly even more reliable than the subject's subjective assessment. /So for instance, when

-35-

the telepathic signal was repeated, the subject's conscious activity interfered, and he imagined sometimes to have intercepted even the signals that were not sent./

In my opinion, these two observations are important, and they can, when corroborated, bring us a long way ahead towards the control over ESP. The problem seems to be rather complicated, ~~more~~ of course, since all regularities of these types of function of the brain are of only statistical character, and they represent a definite simplification of the complex activity of the brain. And again, the telepathic signals thus registered were merely simple impulses /without any complex meaning/. Nevertheless, this research indicates one important and apparently realizable plan /which Pavlova is aware of/: To design an appliance that could /by means of a computer and a television screen/ immediately analyze and visualize the type of activity of subject's brain; this appliance could then serve as a feed-back for the subject when practising auto-concentration, and thus help him to train bringing his brain into the desired function state. And then, when the suitable function state of the brain is achieved, it could be possible /say, again by EEG/ to detect the incoming telepathic stimuli.

The conclusions of ~~Brunn~~ Pavlova /who makes, after all, the impression of an able, serious and self-critical scientist/, however, have been deduced - as it seems - only on the basis of short-distance experiments made with not more than two subjects. Yet in my opinion, when we take them as preliminary results, we should accept them quite earnestly. On the other hand, the long-distance telepathic experiment Moscow-Leningrad to which publicity was given by Kaumov, though it was based on the same principle, can be interesting only from the methodical point of view, since the experiment itself, and especially its evaluation, were not careful enough.

The experiment consisted in the effort telepathically to transmit one single short Russian word MIG in the Morse alphabet code: / -- / .. / --. / , i.e. the total of 7 signals.

The experiment was performed in this way: Yu.I. Kuzensky /who did not know that he was sending the Morse code/ concentrated in Moscow at an agreed upon time in certain intervals on a situation with a strong emotional tinge /that he was thrashing Nikolaev/. Signal of a dash lasted 45 seconds, signal of a dot 15 seconds. K.N. Nikolaev tried in Leningrad at the same time to catch these signals. He announced the interception of each signal by a conscious response and, in addition, the correctness of this response

34

was checked by means of EEG. According to the original experimental plan Nikolaev's responses lasting less than 30 seconds were to be interpreted as dots, signals longer than 30 seconds as dashes. But when the actual decoding of the received response was done /this was done by G.A.Sergeev who knew the word to be signalled/ it became evident that decoding according to the original plan would not give the signalled word. G.A.Sergeev, therefore, has introduced additional criteria for evaluation by which the original responses were "corrected" so as to make it possible to decode the transmitted word at last. This proceeding is methodically dubious and therefore, this long-distance experiment cannot be taken seriously. Naumov has given publicity to it without Pavlova's consent.

In connection with the above study an another telepathic experiment was performed which was methodically interesting, too. The agent was stimulated by flashes of light, and the rhythm of these flashes was different for both his eyes. Due to the superposition of both rhythms there appeared beats in subject's mental activity. Strangely enough, these beats could be detected in EEG records of the percipient, too.

Situation in other East-European Countries

As an appendix to the above report I shall briefly comment the situation of parapsychology in other East-European countries.

East Germany

The situation adversary to parapsychology has developed thanks to the activity of an influential and unscrupulous critic, professor Otto Frokop /director, Institute for Official Medicine, Humboldt University, Berlin/, who has published numerous books and articles in recent years through which he influenced public opinion very adversely.

/Let us note that there were three such outstanding critics of parapsychology in Eastern Europe who have some ~~many~~ traits in common: opportunist careerism in character, unscrupulous methods, application of philosophic demagoguery, political force and background intrigues instead of free matter-of-fact discussion. It is Prof. O.Frokop in East Germany, Dr.I.Horvai in Czechoslovakia, and Prof. Biryukov in the U.S.S.R./

An only person with a positive interest in parapsychology appears to be Dr.med.Gerdn Jun., a young physician /specialized in juvenile psychiatry/. Having too many routine professional tasks

she has no time for experimental work in parapsychology/.

Ungarn

As far as I could learn, no serious interest.

Poland

After the 2nd World War, a leading Polish geophysicist, prof. S. Manczarski has published reports about his telepathic experiments /without having given full necessary details of methods and results obtained/ ^{positive} the results of which he tried to explain electromagnetically. Under Manczarski's auspices, his pupil K. Jach completed a diploma thesis with a theme close to parapsychology. But Manczarski is old now, and in addition, has many duties in his physicist's profession, and therefore, does not work in parapsychology any more. The same applies to Jach who has still some interest, it is true, but does not continue experimental work, since conditions in Poland are not such as to make it possible to earn one's living in parapsychological research.

In contrast to the above, a lady about in 40-ies, inż. Maria Szulc, seems to have a deep interest in parapsychology. By original profession a biochemist, she teaches at the College for Body Culture in Warsaw now. From her own initiative /possibly motivated by her interest in parapsychology/ she has passed a university course in hypnosis which she uses now in the treatment of alcohol-drinkers. She made no public statement about parapsychology but she is - from all Polish scientists I know - most likely to make some positive contribution to parapsychology under present conditions.

But, to sum up, the situation in Poland is little favourable to parapsychology. This is true in spite of the fact that some articles about parapsychology have been published in Polish press recently - this being a few popular articles about Ossowiecky, and then mainly reports taken over from Russian press: mainly about Vasiliev's and Naumov's experiments that received wide publicity in Russia.

Roumanie

I do not know from personal experience. Conference in Moscow in 1966 which has been organized by Naumov, was attended also by one Roumanian delegate /a psychologist, V. Gheorghiu/ who reported about some experiments with hypnotized subjects.

Bulgaria

While in the above states there is no strong personality which could put through conditions for parapsychological research, in Bulgaria there is such a strong individuality: a psychiatrist,

-36-

Dr. G. Lozanov. After many years of efforts and negotiations he succeeded in obtaining the support of influential persons in the Bulgarian government /T. Zhivkov, etc./. Some of his researches concerning learning in the sleep and hypnosis /which I do not know in detail/ seem to have contributed to it. When I was the last time in Sofia /in summer 1966/ he informed me that he had been appointed director of a newly established "Institute for Suggestology and Parapsychology" in Sofia which he was just in the process of organizing. He has shown me a modest building in which the institute was to be situated, and told me that the institute was to have about 15 to 30 staff members, and that it was understood that half of the research tasks would have bearing upon parapsychology.

The institute has meanwhile started its activity, but I am not in the position to assess to what degree. Be it as it may, Lozanov travels abroad to gather experience, and his research expenses are paid by Bulgarian government. He attended Naumov's conference in Moscow, he was in India, etc.

As concerns Lozanov's parapsychological explorations performed up to now, we could point first to his qualitative observations of a clairvoyant woman, Vanga, living in Petric near the Greek frontier. These observations have been reported on different occasions in Bulgarian newspapers and magazines. /Lozanov has stimulated the interest of some journalists who help him in this publicistic activity./ But there is no scientific ~~report~~ publication about these experiments.

As concerns other Lozanov's work in the field of parapsychology, he reported superficially about some experiments in which he succeeded to improve psi abilities in some subjects in the hypnotic state. With one subject trained along these lines he performed, as he claims, a signalization experiment similar to my assured identification experiment. The experimental arrangement was this: On both sides of the subject /percipient/ telegraphic keys were placed, and the subject received telepathic signals to press these keys in such an order which signalized, in the adopted code, a transmitted sentence. The message was ten times repeated so as to ensure the reliability of transmission. The transmission reportedly succeeded also between two neighbouring rooms. But no detailed report about these experiments was published. According to one preliminary numerical statement given by Lozanov, in one such experiment from 1765 telepathically transmitted signals to press one of the two keys 1215 were correctly received.

In my opinion, the quality of Lozanov's work does not reach the standard of precision in methods and evaluation that are usual

PAGE 37

UN-READABLE

ON ORIGINAL

-38-

they deliberately made science to a servant of materialistic ideology and of the communist greed for power. When confronted with this threat, in my opinion, we must not neglect considering what use or impact our scientific findings can have in the world we live in. And when there is a danger that these findings could be used to threaten democracy, we must take pains to find means in time to defy this threat.

Besides the above prospects of practical application there are at least two areas where the findings of parapsychology can, in the last instance, bring a definite advantage to the democratic state, and disadvantage to a totalitarian ~~state~~ régime, and particularly to that one which is based on a materialistic philosophy.

First, when a perfect control over telepathy is obtained /especially when the ability spreads widely among the people/, the deceitful propaganda will be impossible which helps the totalitarian state to recruit and work up loyal adherents.

The second point seems still more important to me. It seems to me that the Western world, in comparison with the Communist block, has no comprehensive and universal guiding philosophy. Dialectic materialism is a universal philosophical system which directs the whole human life and gives to it, from its point of view, a certain reasonable sense. /Other philosophical systems, more or less, emphasize only some selected ideas or partial aspects of human existence./ Only the religious view of the world which is the foundation of the Western civilization, is also universal in its encompassing all aspects of human life. And it is apparently only the religious view of the world that can be compared and confronted with the system of dialectic materialism. And this is why we experience the conflict between the democracy and communism as a conflict between the religion and atheistic materialism.

In my opinion, the orthodox religious view of the world, when judged on a world-wide scale, ~~is~~ gradually ^{becoming} out-of-date in some of its features. The developments in natural sciences have contributed to it to a great degree and, of course, the whole trend of development of the modern civilization /the emphasis given to material and technical aspects of life/. In to-day's civilization the man is drawn more and more away from its inner life, and his attention is fastened to outer manifestations of his inner existence. Paradoxically enough, Western scientists by seeking for scientific knowledge, and by launching new and new technical developments, thus indirectly propagate the materialistic view of the

world and the entire that view of the world which is the basis of their civilization. In my opinion, parapsychological research should reverse this trend and direct man's attention also to other aspects of his cosmic existence and to other structural parts of his personality.

It is true, dialectic materialism involves a certain concession, 'one weak point, in the conception of an unlimited number of attributes of matter as it is expressed in the definition of matter as an "objective reality existing outside of the consciousness" of the observer /without any other invariable attribute/. This conception, in its consequences, undermines the very principle of materialism, and the dialectico-materialistic conception of matter melts away. /Should it be possible scientifically to demonstrate, e.g. the objective existence of God, He would be, according to this definition, also "material" in his nature./

Communist philosophers do not realize in their majority this conflict situation, since they take it for absurd that it would be possible scientifically to prove human personality and cosmic essence to extend beyond the limits of the World of Physical Matter. In my opinion, it is just parapsychology which offers us scientific methods apt to afford us such a proof, and to help us to give a more perfect, more adequate description of the processes in the Universe, and to work out a new universal view of the world that will give a new sense to human life in conformity to Highest Cosmic Laws.